

'Simba' Kills 6 in Battle of Chicken Ridge

"Simba," the long-tailed Palos Verdes mountain lion regarded by many as a menace and by many others as a fairy tale, was back in the news Wednesday morning after killing six chickens and carting off two others in a midnight raid on a ranch in the nearby hills.

The controversial raiding feline has divided local hunters into two classes. One group laughs scoffingly and says "there ain't no such mountain lion," and the other, a group of hardy eager hunters who have spent several nights in the wilds of Palos Verdes tracking the elusive beast, who claim "There is so."

Tracks Found

"Simba" practically dropped out of sight for a year and little was seen or heard about the mysterious cat until this week when Frank Horvat, a rancher living at 3745 Palos Verdes Dr. North, found large tracks around his raided chicken coop. The tracks measured 2 1/2 inches wide and 3 1/2 inches long with five large round pads on the bottom. The wire on Horvat's coop was ripped loose, and blood and feathers were found scattered about the area.

Horvat belongs to the camp that believes the marauder animal is a member of the feline family, possibly a bobcat or a mountain lion, and not a dog. Tracking the animal away from the coop for nearly 100 yards, Horvat noticed that the tracks showed no evidence of claw marks. He points out to the disbelievers that a dog's claws are retractable and its tracks show claw marks in the dirt. A cat's claws are retracted when walking and do not leave marks in the soil as does a member of the canine family. The tracks outside Horvat's coop indicate

the animal to have a three-foot stride. The footprints showed five circular pads, two in front, two at the sides and one in the rear.

Pooch-Pooch the Idea

Opposed to the group of skeptical hunters who "pooch-pooch" the idea that a mountain lion roams the sparsely-populated area of Palos Verdes hills are a number of residents of the hilly brush-covered community who have seen the animal. "I've argued that it 'aint no dog," one resident has concrete proof that it is a lion. The animal walked across his freshly-paved patio leaving tracks in the wet cement.

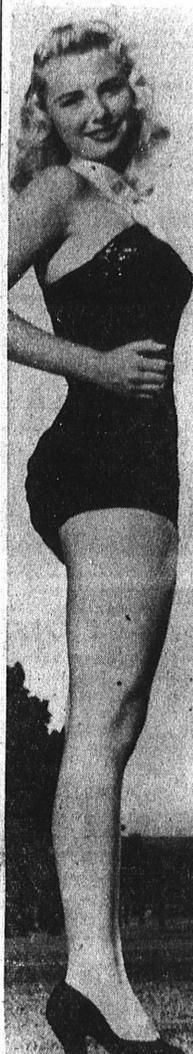
On two occasions more than a year ago a posse of sturdy, determined hunters packed into the hills led by trained dogs in search of "Simba," but came away with an empty sack. The skeptics claim "Simba" is a member of the snipe family and could be caught in the same manner as are snipes—by holding a lighted flashlight behind an open gunny sack.

Simba II

Currently in the news is another mountain lion, "Simba II," who is being tracked through

Queen Race Entries At 20 Near Deadline

Five more entries swelled the candidate list for the coming Miss Torrance contest to 20 Friday as the deadline for entries neared. No new candidates will be registered after 5 p.m. tomorrow, Aug. 3, according to W. E. Bowen, president of the sponsoring Torrance Area Youth Band.



Adding their names to the candidate list Friday were Ann Leo, sponsored by the Joslin Lumber Co.; Theresa Simon, Torrance Loan and Jewelry; Norma Flores, Kettler Drugs, and Shirley Losten and Beverly Dahlin, no sponsors.

James Van Dyck, director of the Torrance Area Youth Bands, said yesterday that Oscar Meinhard, producer of the Miss Universe Pageant in Long Beach each year, had agreed to head the panel of judges which will select the "Miss Torrance" of 1953.

Winner of the contest will be flown to Las Vegas by Western Airlines for a week-end at the fabulous Thunderbird Hotel as the guest of Proprietor Marty Hicks. The week-end trip for two was arranged with Hicks by Charlie Gottis of Daniels Cafe.

Tickets for the judging, to be held in the Civic Auditorium on Tuesday evening, Aug. 18, will go on sale this week. Van Dyck said. Admission will be \$1, and a full evening of top-flight entertainment will be offered during the judging.

A coronation ball will be held at Club Alondra, on Prairie Ave. just north of Redondo Beach Blvd., on the following Saturday night, Aug. 22. Admission to the ball will be \$1 per person.

More Contestants

Other contestants for the Miss Torrance title and their sponsors include:

- Sandra Lee Constance, La Galleria Florists.
- Jo Ann Harlan, A-1 Photo Service.
- Aline Sparks, Torrance Heating and Appliance.
- Frieda Kittrell, B & R Cleaners.
- Ella Mae McLeod, The Gay Shop.
- Dolores M. Patrosky, Daniels Cafe.
- Maureen Monahan, Currie's.
- Betty Weiler, Trend O' Fashion.
- Margaret Epefanto, Western Auto.
- Jo Ann Howard, Artsy Morgage.
- Ann Pihit, Photo Safety Studio.
- Mary Ann Notman, Lawson's Jewelers.
- Karen Dean, Mari Lyn's Dress Shop.
- Shirlee R. Salsman, Benson's.

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12 PAGES

To Hospital

Barefoot Joan Gets Lift From Police

Dear boss:

As you may have heard by now, the famous Joan Berry, who is supposed to be receiving a little gettous from Charlie Chaplin for a baby she once had, became entangled in the toils of Torrance law here Wednesday night and Thursday morning. The downtown papers were hot on the deal all day Wednesday, but as of quitting time, I hear nothing from them.

My notes go as follows:

8:30 p.m. Wednesday, Officers Don Nash and Jim Thompson pick up gal identified as Joan Harry Beck, who gave address at 1740 Harper Lane, Redondo, and her age as 33. She was barefoot, walking near intersection of Sepulveda and Hawthorne Blvds. Claimed she was sick and needed medical attention. Officers obliged and took her to Harbor General Hospital—end of case (they thought).

Back Home

Sometime later, Harbor Hospital called and said inasmuch as the officers were kind enough to bring the gal out to them, would they be kind enough to come pick her up—they were through with her. Assistant Chief Willard Haslam and Policewoman Bernice Florence took her home—end of case (they thought).

3:30 a.m., Thursday: Officers Bill Shaner and Donnie Cook pick up barefoot gal walking east on 190th St. east of Hawthorne—her tooties were blisters and sore—said she was walking to Long Beach or Tijuana or some damn place. You guessed it—same gal.

"We Know Her"

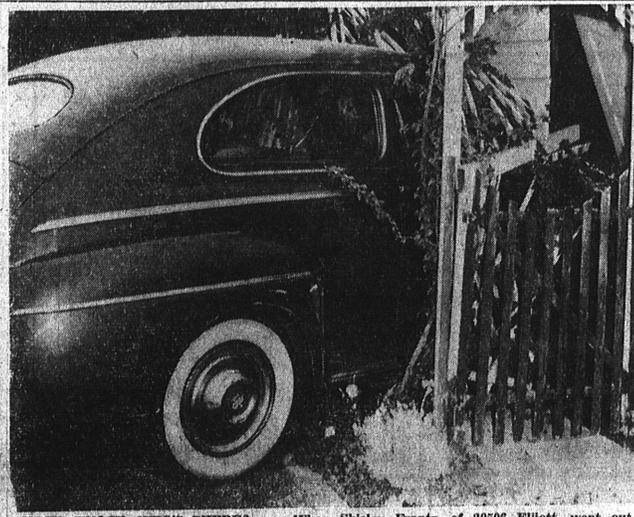
Joan told police (Sgt. John Maestri is on desk by now)

that she had a "misunderstanding" with the gal with whom she roomed in Redondo (the other gal wasn't named; in fact, she refused to give the name), and she up and left again. In her purse, the police found a release from Los Angeles County General Hospital, so Sgt. Maestri called the hospital and inquired about her. "Sure," the nurse there said, "we know her well." Said she needed medical attention, but had been released to her mother and attorney to be placed in a private sanatorium.

Heaving a weary sigh, two officers and a matron loaded the former Chaplin protegee in a wagon and trucked her off to General—end of case (they thought).

THE END.

Next day: The ex-actress' three children, Carol Ann, 9, whom Chaplin supports financially because Joan claims she is his, and Russell 6, and Stephen 4, (the latter two by her estranged husband, Russell Charles Seek Jr.) were placed in the care of the juvenile court. (End of case. They hope!).



KNOCK, KNOCK, WHO'S THERE? . . . When Shirley Frantz, of 29506 Elliott, went out to put her car in the garage Thursday evening, it had other ideas. Crashing through a picket fence, across a neighbor's back yard, and through a vine trellis, it came to rest at the kitchen door of a family at 20510 Elliott. No one was hurt.

Airman AWOL 11 Days

Airman Mack Andrews, who said he had been AWOL from the Westover Air Force Base in Springfield, Mass. for 11 days, walked into the Torrance police station Thursday evening, saying, "I want to give myself up."

An officer from the Long Beach Air Station took him in to custody here for return to his base. Andrews didn't explain how he got to Torrance from Massachusetts.

'Good Neighbor' Breakfast Date Set for Nov. 7

The annual YMCA Good Neighbor Breakfast will be held on Saturday, Nov. 7, and plans are being made to use the Civic Auditorium according to A. C. Turner, chairman of the Torrance branch of the YMCA.

Nominations for the "Good Neighbor of Torrance" will be received at a later date, Turner said, and a committee of leading citizens will determine the winner.

Mr. and Mrs. Wilson Page, 735 Border Ave., were named "Good Neighbors" last year and received an electric clock as a memento of the occasion.

Named to the committee to work out the details of the breakfast were C. E. Mullen, Reid Bundy, Bill Zappas, R. I. Plomer Jr., and R. R. Smith. The chairman of the committee will be announced in the near future.

Surplus Tent Poles Thrown Out by Driver

Someone with a surplus of tent poles selected a very unthoughtful way of disposing of some of them in the opinion of Mrs. Ida Lewis, 2400 1/2 W. Carson St.

Mrs. Lewis told Torrance police yesterday that about 2 a.m. someone drove down the alley and heaved the tent poles out toward her back yard.

The poles, tied in a bundle, crashed through a kitchen window and onto the floor, Mrs. Lewis said.

\$1,000,000 Home Development Gets City Council OK

The City Council has approved tract maps for construction of an 80-home subdivision south of Sepulveda Blvd., and east of Madison St. City Manager George Stevens announced this week.

A \$1,000,000 development, the new tract will feature three and four bedroom homes. It is being planned by Hirsch-Victory Enterprises.

Auto Crash Hurts Woman

Treated at Harbor General Hospital for injuries described as minor yesterday morning was Gladys Ulrich, 28, of Wilmington.

Mrs. Ulrich, a passenger in a car driven by Donald O. Ulrich of Wilmington, was injured at Western Ave. and Carson St. early yesterday after the Ulrich car had collided with one driven by Torrance High School student Marshall Pulvers, 16, of 1407 Greenwood.

The Pulvers auto was hit in the rear as it made a right turn into a service station on Western, police said. None of the other occupants was injured.

Motor Vehicle Chief to Visit Torrance Soon

A. H. Henderson, director of the State Department of Motor Vehicles, will be in Torrance about Aug. 15 to make an "on the spot" decision about locating a branch office of the department here, according to Assemblyman Vincent Thomas.

Assemblyman Thomas, who returned from Sacramento Wednesday, said he had talked to Henderson earlier in the week and that the DMV chief had said that members of his department had been making a survey of the area during the past two weeks.

County Planners Oppose Lomita Blvd. Alteration

The County Regional Planning Commission announced this week that they are opposed to any plan to eliminate the broad, unpaved section of Lomita Blvd. that begins at Hawthorne Blvd. and runs through Sepulveda Gardens, because of a large commercial development is slated to be built at the intersection of Lomita Blvd. and Palos Verdes Parkway.

The announcement was made by H. R. Pachen, of the Planning Board, in a letter read at Tuesday's City Council meeting.

Residents of Sepulveda Gardens have asked that the route be eliminated or altered because they object to a highway slicing between their homes.

Because stores and businesses will soon be built at the end of the unpaved section of Lomita Blvd., the Planning Board expressed opposition to any plan to change or eliminate the street.

No definite date has been set for the paving or improving of the street, but future plans call for the route to be made into a through boulevard.

Aid Promised in Quieting Wild Beach Parties

Better cooperation between the county sheriff's office and the Torrance police was promised Friday by Supervisor Burton W. Chace in the matter of the unpatrolled Torrance Beach where residents have repeatedly complained of all-night noisy drunk orgies.

Chace's field deputies began an immediate investigation into the complaints that the beach area, scene of nightly beach parties, was not being adequately patrolled. Police Chief John Stroh told the City Council Tuesday night that he was instructed by county life guards "to stay out of here. We'll handle it."

Owned by County

Commander William A. Mason, prominent in the affairs of the Hollywood Riviera Homeowners Assn., told the city fathers Tuesday night that he too had heard those instructions, but that the county was not handling it. The area under fire is the mile-long strip of surf and sand between the Hollywood Riviera Beach Club and the Palos Verdes city limits. The beach is owned by the county, although the property is in the City of Torrance.

Residents of the surfside area have invited newspaper reporters and members of the City Council to spend a night in some of the homes near the beach and to observe the "riotous parties" first-hand. The homeowners said that the nuisance is so great that they have tried to sell their homes, but that word of the wild noisy parties "has got around" and nobody will buy their beachfront homes.

Open All Night

Beachgoers apparently flock to Torrance Beach to stage parties knowing that other county beaches are closed at 1 a.m., whereas Torrance Beach is open all night and is patrolled once or twice a night by a county life guard in a jeep covering the area from Santa Monica to Torrance Beach.

Complaints from a group of residents also claim that the lifeguards sell firewood for bonfires to the beach party groups. City Manager George W. Stevens was instructed by the council to write Supervisor Chace seeking the supervisor's aid in bringing some relief to the homeowners in the area.

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Car Looted at Beach

While he was parked near Torrance Beach Thursday morning, someone entered his car and stole a lady's purse, a wicker purse containing \$4 and a sather wallet containing \$3. David L. Raines of Los Angeles told Torrance police.

Torrance Armory Construction Slated for Fall

Construction of the Torrance Armory should start before the end of the year, it was revealed here last week following a visit to Torrance by Col. Walter Truss, chief of the National Guard Bureau's armory and armory facility division.

The announcement, made by Col. Carl H. Aulick, chief of the army division of the California National Guard, confirmed a statement made earlier by Assemblyman Vincent Thomas that the monies appropriated by the Legislature this spring for the Torrance Armory would become available Sept. 9.

State and Federal funds totaling \$1,500,000 have been earmarked for this long-promised project. The state funds were approved by the Legislature this spring after several close calls in committee hearings.

Site of the proposed armory is at Cabrillo Ave. and Lincoln. The city donated the land for the site sometime ago and recently extended the time limit on the transfer of the land to the state in order to assure the construction here.

City Parkway Survey Slated

Dusty parkways left about town by various subdividers may be cleaned up and beautified soon, it was revealed this week.

Ralph Perkins, Street and Park superintendent, and Casper Clemmer, horticultural expert, are undertaking a survey of various parkways in the city to see how they can best be beautified at the least expense, according to George Stevens, city manager.

School Budget Hearing Slated

The final hearing on the 1953-54 Torrance Unified School District budget will be held in the district offices at 3 p.m. on Tuesday evening.

Unless objections to the budget are expressed, the five-member school board probably will adopt the \$2,745,191 budget at Tuesday's hearing, according to J. H. Hull, superintendent of schools.



'GRANDMA OF THE DAY' . . . Mrs. Cora Dukes, of 616 E. Carson St., was selected recently from the studio audience on "Ladies Choice," a network television show seen daily on NBC, and crowned "Grandma of the Day" by Master of Ceremonies Johnny Dugan, above. Her gifts included a personal singing serenade by singing star Dugan, an Irish tenor. She also was presented with the big bouquet of roses that she is shown holding. The telecast originates Monday through Friday from NBC's Hollywood studios.